

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01077 071545Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 /052 W

----- 053300

O R 071450Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8056

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

USIA WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1077

USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, CZ, UR, US

SUBJECT: VE DAY: CZECHOSLOVAK PROTEST ON US VE DAY PAMPHLET

1. SUMMARY: ZANTOVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT MFA) CALLED IN DCM MAY 7 TO DELIVER STRONG PROTEST ABOUT US PAMPHLET ON AMERICAN ROLE IN LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1945. HE SAID WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES WERE STILL SET AS PLANNED ON MAY 8, BUT SAID CZECH REPRESENTATION WOULD BE AT LOWER LEVEL THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED. HE ASKED THAT AMBASSADOR AND DCM NOT DELIVER SHORT SPEECHES AT WREATH-LAYING AS PLANNED, AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT PAMPHLET NOT GET FURTHER DISTRIBUTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01077 071545Z

2. READING FROM NOTES, ZANTOVSKY DELIVERED STRONG PROTEST AGAINST US PAMPHLET "LIEBERATION 1945," MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) GOC PROTESTED VERY STRONGLY AGAINST PAMPHLET, WHICH EMBASSY HAD DISTRIBUTED WIDELY. PROTEST WAS AGAINST DISTRIBUTION AND AGAINST CONTENT. (B) PAMPHLET CONSTITUTED GROSS INTERFERENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT MISUSED HISTORIC FACTS AND WAS FULL OF OPEN AND HIDDEN ANTI-SOCIALIST, ANTI-SOVIET, AND ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENTS, FULLY SUPPORTING THE CLASS ROLE OF AMERICAN WORLD IMPERIALISM. (C) PAMPHLET WAS FULL OF INVECTIVES AGAINST USSR, NEGLECTING IN ONE-SIDED FASHION TO GIVE CREDIT TO SOVIET ARMY FOR LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. (D) IN HIS TALKS WITH DCM RE MAY 9 CEREMONIES, ZANTOVSKY HAD SAID MAY 9 CEREMONIES SHOULD BE USED TO STRENGTHEN POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION; BUT PAMPHLET CONSTITUTED IN EFFECT A BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. (E) ZANTOVSKY'S PROPOSALS TO LEADERSHIP HAD GOTTEN POSITIVE REPLY -- WILLINGNESS TO INVITE VETERANS, TO ATTEND RECEPTION, ETC. -- BUT US ACTION NOW FORCED GOC TO SEND LOWER LEVEL REPRESENTATION TO WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES. (F) ZANTOVSKY HIMSELF WAS MOST DISAPPOINTED, AND THOUGH DCM HAD CHEATED BY NOT MENTIONING PAMPHLET TO HIM. (G) MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DOES NOT DICTATE TO PRESS. BUT HE NOW FELT HE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ANY RESTRAINT ON PRESS IN TELLING TRUE ROLE OF US ARMY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. (H) IT WAS NOT CUSTOMARY TO MAKE SPEECHES AT WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SO WE WERE REQUESTED NOT TO DO SO MAY 9. (ZANTOVSKY LATER SAID WE COULD READ PREPARED SPEECHES AT LUNCH IF WE WISHED.) (I) IN SUM, HE WISHED TO PROTEST STRONGLY AGAINST GROSS INTERFERENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAK INTERNAL MATTERS AND TO REQUEST THAT WE STOP DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLET.

3. DCM MADE FOLLOWING POINTS, AMONG OTHERS, IN REPLY:
(A) HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE WORD "CHEATING." EMBASSY HAD PLANNED A NUMBER OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH 30TH ANNIVERSARY, AND WAS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO DISCUSS THEM WITH GOC. (B) HE COULD NOT ACCEPT ALLEGATIONS ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR USE OF ANTI-SOVIET OR ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENTS. TEXT OF PAMPHLET WAS FROM OFFICIAL USG HISTORY OF ARMED FORCES IN WORLD WAR II, "THE SUPREME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01077 071545Z

COMMAND" (WHICH DCM HAD FURNISHED PARTIAL COPIES OF TO ZANTOVSKY ON MAY 6), AND WAS NON-POLEMICAL. IF GOC HAD ANY PARTICULAR STATEMENTS IN TEXT THAT IT OBJECTED TO, US SIDE WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS THEM. (ZANTOVSKY NEVER NAMED ANY SPECIFIC PORTIONS.) PICTURES IN PAMPHLET WERE FROM OFFICIAL WORLD WAR II PHOTOS OF US ARMY IN BOHEMIA, AND HAD BEEN USED ON OUR EMBASSY BULLETIN BOARDS THIS YEAR AND PREVIOUSLY. (C) EMBASSY WAS DISTRIBUTION PAMPHLETS ON BASIS VIENNA CON-

VENTION WHICH ALLOWED ANY EMBASSY TO PUT OUT INFORMATION ABOUT ITS COUNTRY. PAMPHLET WAS INFORMATIVE, NON-POLEMICAL DESCRIPTION OF ROLE OF US FORCES IN LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. (D) DCM FAILED TO SEE CONNECTION WITH ANTI-US PRESS CAMPAIGN, SINCE US PAMPHLET WAS NOT ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK OR ANTI-SOVIET IN ANY WAY AND WAS MERELY INTENDED TO STATE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT US ROLE IN BOHEMIA. (E) DCM WOULD REPORT ZANTOVSKY'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR AND TO DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY WOULD HOLD TO PLANS FOR MAY 8 WREATH-LAYING.

4. IN SLIGHTLY MORE CIVILIZED REPLY, ZANTOVSKY SAID HE WAS NOT BY ANY MEANS WRITING OFF US CONTRIBUTION IN WORLD WAR II, WHICH WAS HIGHLY VALUED. GOC WILL STILL PARTICIPATE AT WREATH-LAYING, ALBIET AT LOWER LEVEL, AND PLANNED REMARKS (WHICH DCM GAVE ZANTOVSKY COPIES OF) COULD BE MADE AT LUNCH IF WE WISHED. HOWEVER, HE COULD HAVE BEEN TOLD IN ADVANCE ABOUT PAMPHLET. FURTHERMORE, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE OF PRESS LAW (74 OF 1949 AND 81 OF 1966). DCM SAID WE WERE. AS FINAL PINPRICK ZANTOVSKY REQUESTED THAT VISITING SCIATT FROM MOSCOW, LOEBNER, NOT ATTEND WREATH-LAYING SINCE HE WAS NOT FROM OUR EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: ON MAY 6 EMBASSY HAD ISSUED APPROXIMATELY 550 COPIES OF PAMPHLET TO ELEVEN WESTERN EMBASSIES AND 450 COPIES ALONG WITH PRESS RELEASE ON WREATH-LAYING TO REGULAR RECIPIENTS OF EMBASSY PRESS RELEASES. IN VIEW OF THIS PROTEST, EMBASSY WILL NOT PROCEED WITH DISTRIBUTION VIA MAILS TO CZECHOSLOVAKS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE DISCREET HAND-OUTS TO DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES. AS FOR BRIEF SPEECHES, WE WILL COMPLY WITH GOC REQUESTS AND NOT MAKE THEM AT CEREMONIES, AND WILL SEE IF OCCASION IS APPROPRIATE FOR THEM DURING LUNCHES. (UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, WE WOULD PLAN TO TELL JOURNALISTS ABOUT GOC PROTEST ON ON IF-ASKED BASIS AS OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PRAGUE 01077 071545Z

MAY 8.) EMBASSY IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT STRENGTH OF GOC PROTEST, BUT WE RECOGNIZE THAT A SENSITIVE NERVE IS TOUCHED AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN PRESS CAMPAIGN ABOUT WORLD WAR II GOING ON HERE SINCE LATE 1974, THAT THE PAMPHLET OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN DONE, AND WE DO NOT REGARD THE PROTEST AS REFLECTING ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE ALREADY EXISTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITERATURE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, V-E DAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750160-0366
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750573/aaaacouv.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VE DAY: CZECHOSLOVAK PROTEST ON US VE DAY PAMPHLET
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, UR, US, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006